United Nations A/53/491

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 October 1998

Original: English

Fifty-third session
Agenda items 27 and 35

Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity

Letter dated 8 October 1998 from the Permanent Representatives of Egypt and Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to inform you that, at a joint meeting of the Groups of African and Arab States at the United Nations, held on 29 September 1998 at Headquarters in New York, a decision was adopted to establish a permanent mechanism of coordination, by entrusting the Chairmen of both Groups for each month, together with the representatives of the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States to the United Nations, to hold periodic meetings and report thereon to members of the two Groups, so as to ensure effective joint action on issues of mutual concern.

Attached, please find the press statement issued at the conclusion of the joint meeting of the two groups (see annex).

We would appreciate it if the present letter and its annex would be issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 27 and 35.

(*Signed*) Nabil A. **Elaraby**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt
to the United Nations
Chairman of the Arab Group

(*Signed*) Ibrahim A. **Gambari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations
Chairman of the African Group

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Annex

Press statement issued at the conclusion of the joint meeting of the Groups of African and Arab States at the United Nations, held on 29 September 1998

The Groups of African and Arab States to the United Nations held a joint meeting on Tuesday, 29 September 1998, at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The meeting was attended by Dr. Ahmed Esmat Abdel Meguid, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, and Dr. Salim A. Salim, Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity.

The joint meeting, under the chairmanship of Ambassador Samir Moubarak, Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations and Chairman of the Group of Arab States for September 1998, and Ambassador Gideon Kayinamura, Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations and Chairman of the Group of African States for September 1998, discussed the items of mutual concern to both groups on the agenda of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. At the conclusion of the meeting, the participants agreed to continue to coordinate their joint efforts with a view to strengthening their cooperation and consultation on all matters of mutual concern, within the United Nations and at other international fora.

To that end, the joint meeting decided to create a permanent mechanism of coordination, by entrusting the Chairmen of the Groups of African and Arab States for each month, together with the representatives of the League of Arab States and the Organization of African Unity to the United Nations, to hold periodic meetings and report thereon to members of the two groups, so as to ensure effective joint action on issues of mutual concern.